



# County of San Diego

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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### Medical Director's Update for Base Station Physicians' Committee June, 2008

**New HHSA Director:** Jean Shepard retired as the Director of the Health & Human Services Agency on June 5, 2008. She was honored that day by the Board of Supervisors, as well as former directors and staff, current staff and many others for her 32 years of service to the county. A wide range of individuals from the community lauded her for her contributions to the health and welfare of our community. EMS will miss her.

The new director is Nick Macchione who was the Agency Deputy Director/Regional Manager of the North Coastal Region for HHSA. As such, he has been involved in many of the health issues in the county. Macchione's background is in public health. He has a degree in biology from Rutgers State University, and Master's degrees from New York University and Columbia University.

**In-service:** Several issues deserve clarification from this year's in-service. The age for CPAP will be 15 years old and above. There should not be deviations to use it at younger ages, until we gain more experience with the treatment.

Remember that sedation with midazolam for behavioral use should be limited to cases where a patient's behavior is a threat to themselves or others. Patients, especially the elderly, should not be sedated for simple, controllable agitation. For stroke care, remember that a patient should be identified as an acute stroke patient only within the three hour time period, and with clear symptoms/signs of a new deficit. Generalized symptoms such as weakness or altered mental status do not qualify.

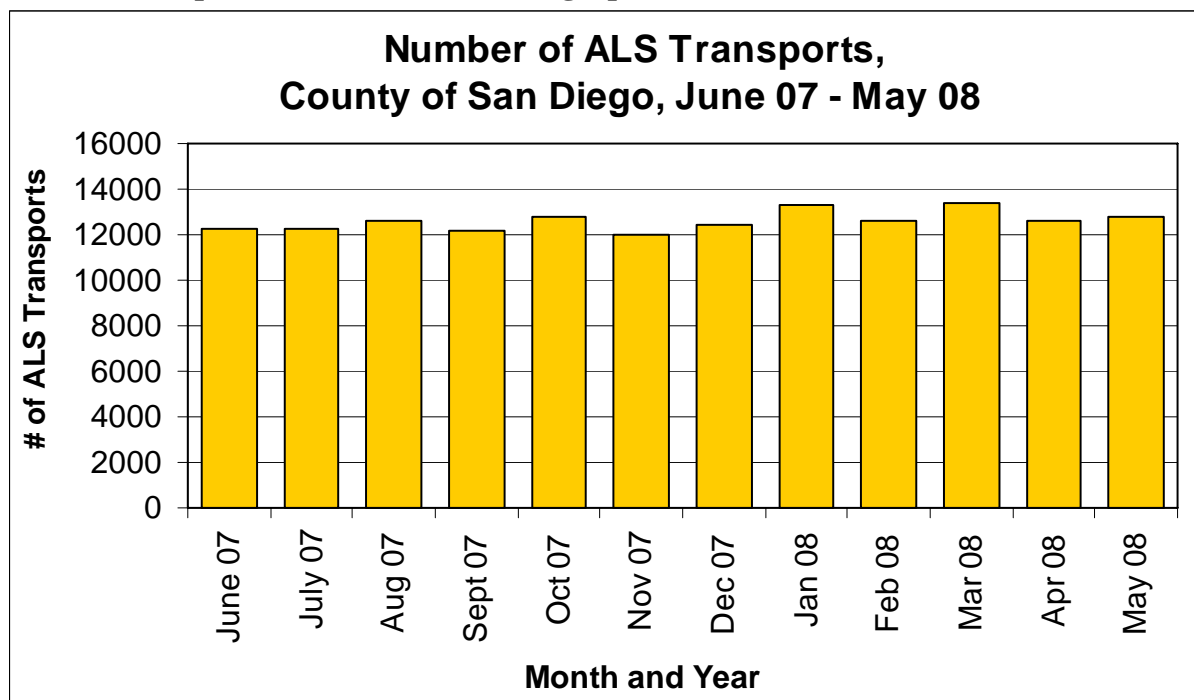
**Bypass/Off Load Delays:** See below for the most recent bypass numbers. We have included some historic data going back to 2000 which shows that early in the flu season it was busy compared to recent years. We will be reviewing and revising the Capacity Plan this summer, well before the winter flu season. One goal is to address off load delays, and include new information on ED/hospital "overcrowding" based on the new attention this subject is receiving at the national and state levels. Preventing off loads will be a focus.

Remember the EMOC Overcrowding Summit will be Wednesday October 8, 2008.

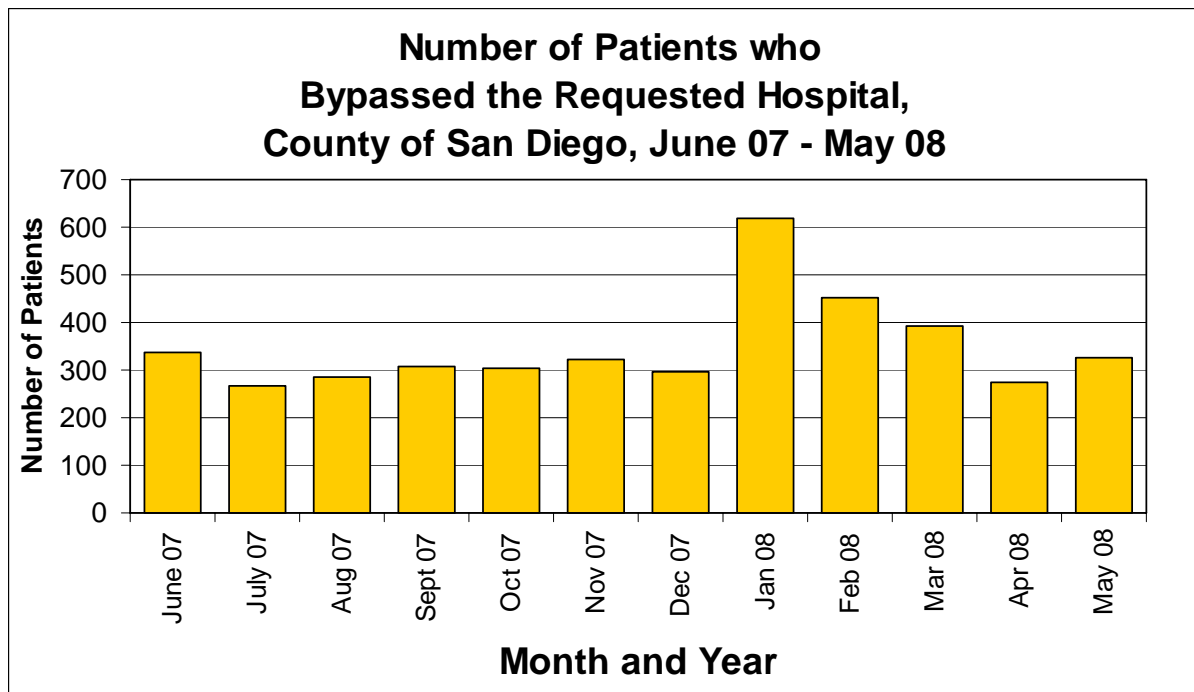
**Earthquake Drill:** This fall's disaster drill will be an earthquake scenario on the Southern San Andreas fault. This means San Diego will be serving as a reception area for casualties from surrounding counties. It is a good opportunity, however, to look at your own hospital preparedness for an earthquake, and focus on issues such as preventing and coping with non-structural damage, and continuing operations despite damage to the facility and community. I will address this more in future updates.

**Stroke reviews:** Hospital reviews for new the new stroke destination policy will occur this summer.

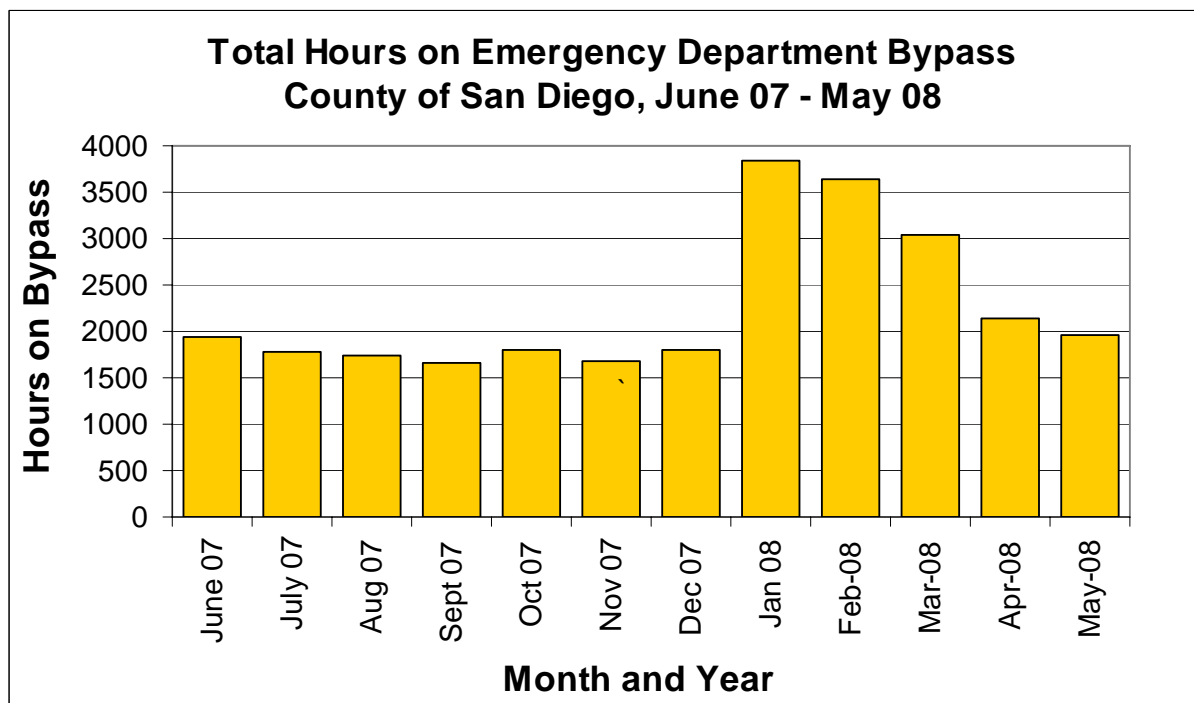
Below are the patient destination data in graphic form:



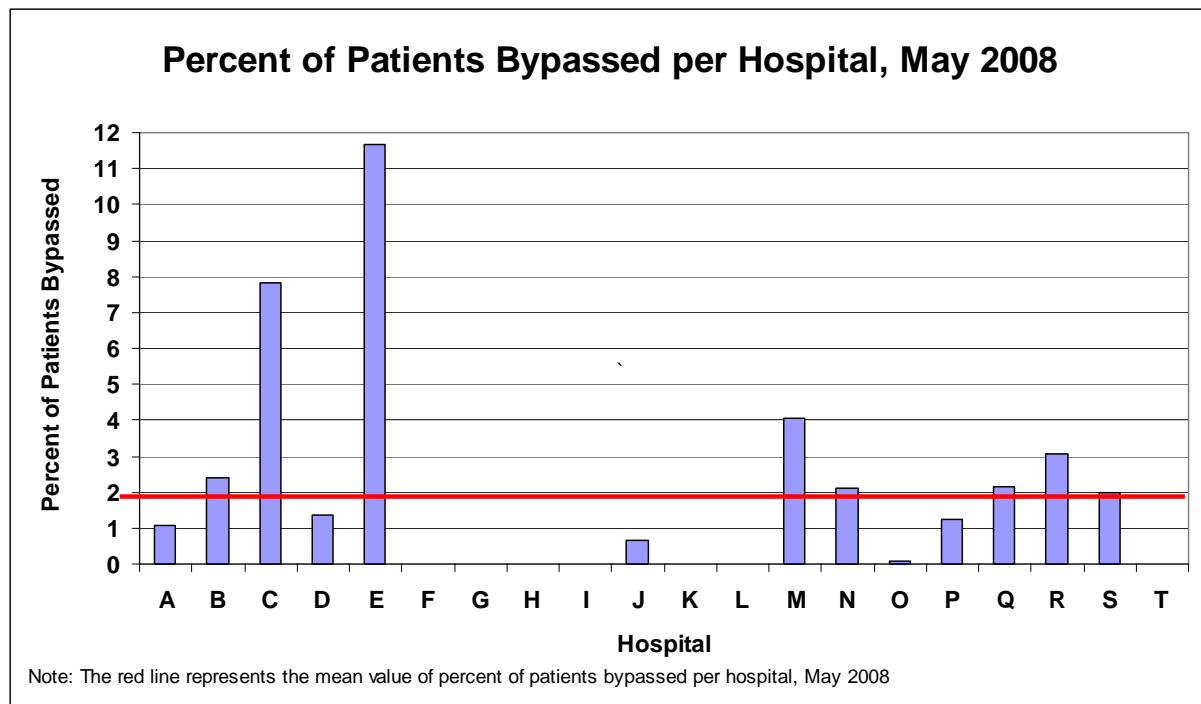
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, June 2007 – May 2008 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other



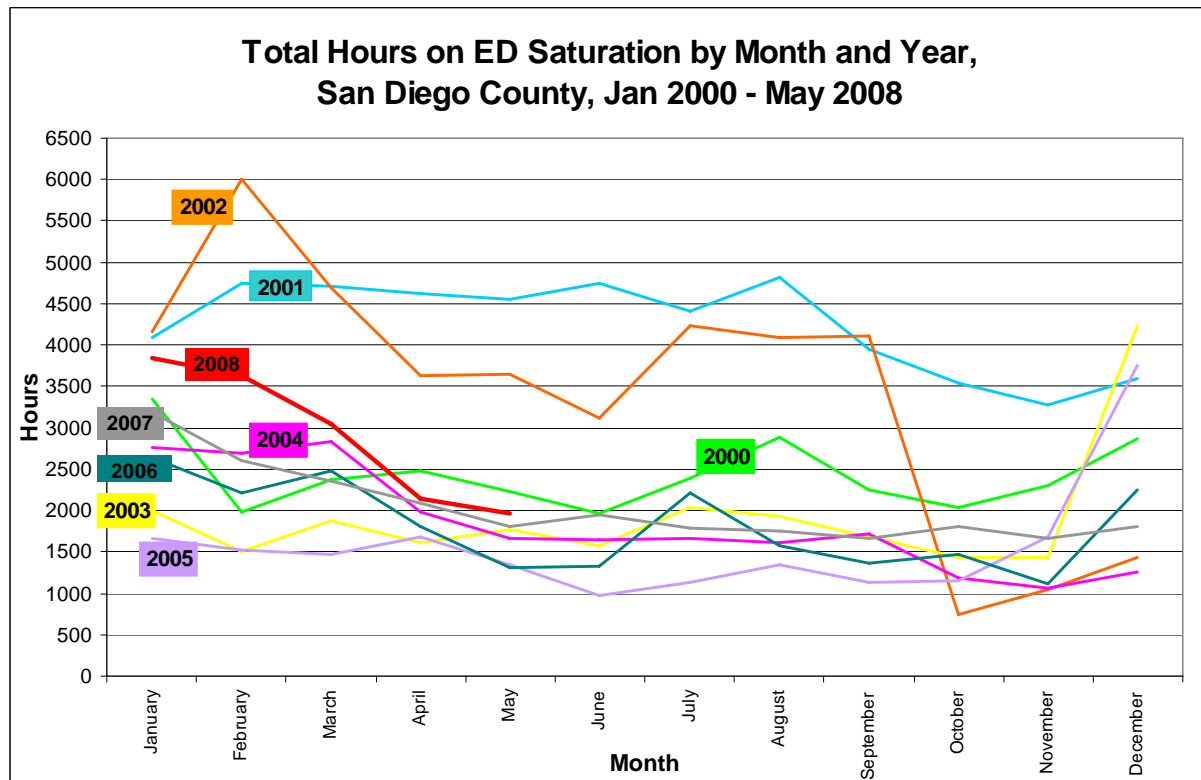
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jun 2007 – May 2008 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other



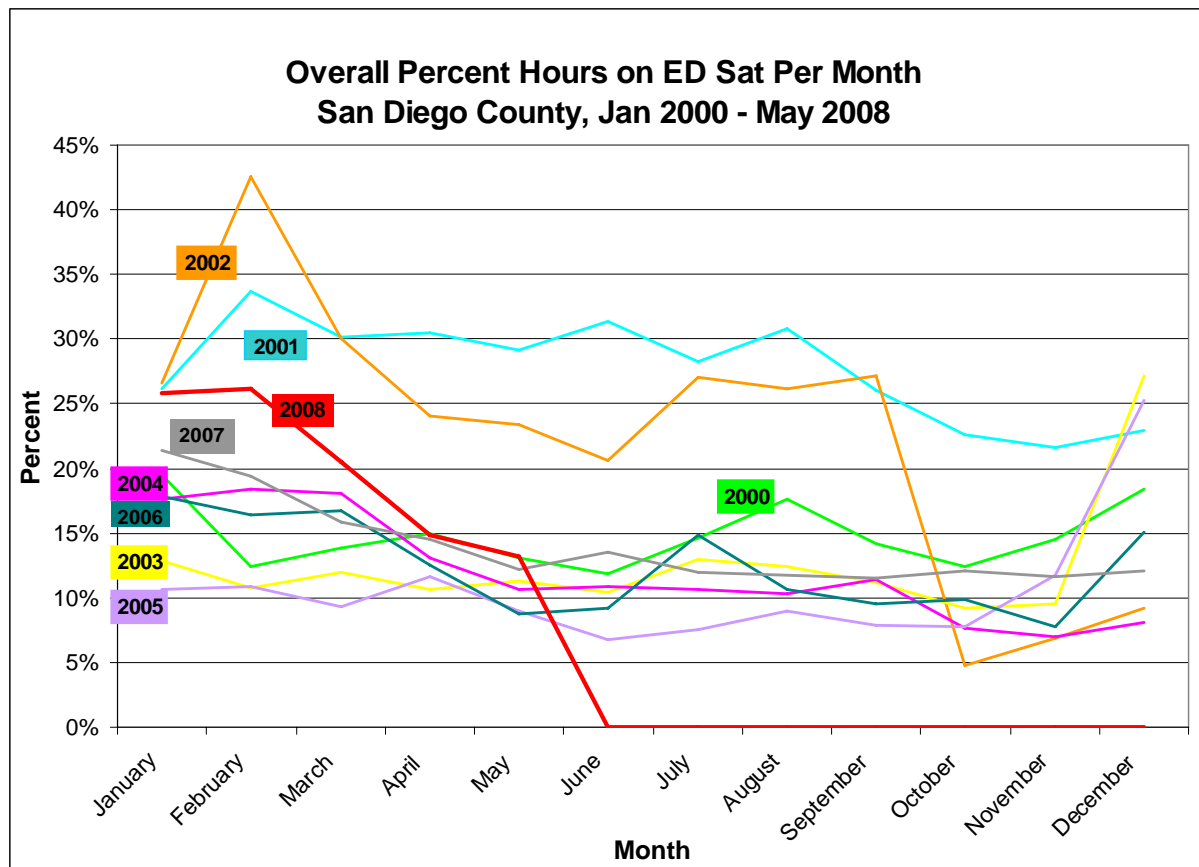
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jun 2007 – May 2008



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, May 2008 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 – May 2008



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Division of Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 – May 2008

Note: 2008 line extended to June due to chart formula, no data for this future date